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### Riparian Condition - “Unacceptable”

**Indicator:** Miles of riparian in “unacceptable” condition by BLM field office. This indicator is based on the Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) rating, described in BLM Technical Reference 1737-9 (1993), which is limited to areas associated with running water (rivers and streams vs. lakes and ponds). The rating includes three main categories: PFC, functional-at-risk (FAR), and nonfunctional (NF). The FAR category is further subdivided by trend: up, not apparent, or down. An additional category denotes the amount of riparian that is unrated. This map portrays the actual number of miles in “unacceptable” condition - namely FAR with trend not apparent or down plus NF. Note that the previous map portrays riparian in “acceptable” condition as a percentage of the total miles.

**Key Findings:** The number of miles of riparian in “unacceptable” condition varies widely across the west. At the low end of the scale, there are 39 field offices with less than 50 miles in “unacceptable” condition, while five field offices have over 400 miles each. Although not shown on the map, the North and South Dakota Field Offices have 31 and 98 miles, respectively.

These numbers can be somewhat misleading when considered alone. By comparing the two riparian condition maps, there are areas that show a relatively low number of miles in “unacceptable” condition, and at the same time, a low percentage in “acceptable” condition (e.g. Las Vegas, Nevada; Price, Utah). This is not too surprising in an arid area like Las Vegas where the total number of riparian miles is low (31 miles). However, in a wetter area like Price, Utah, combining “unacceptable” with unrated condition provides a more complete picture. Price has 664 unrated miles added to 129 “acceptable” out of an estimated total of 838 miles. Thus, the percentage in “acceptable” condition is relatively low (15 percent) while the miles of “unacceptable” are also relatively low (45) due to the large number of unrated miles. The distribution of unrated miles is not mapped separately. However, there are approximately 2,700 miles of riparian that are currently unrated. More than half of these are concentrated in four field offices - Price (664 miles) and Moab, Utah (402 miles), Elko, Nevada (215), and Vernal, Utah (175).

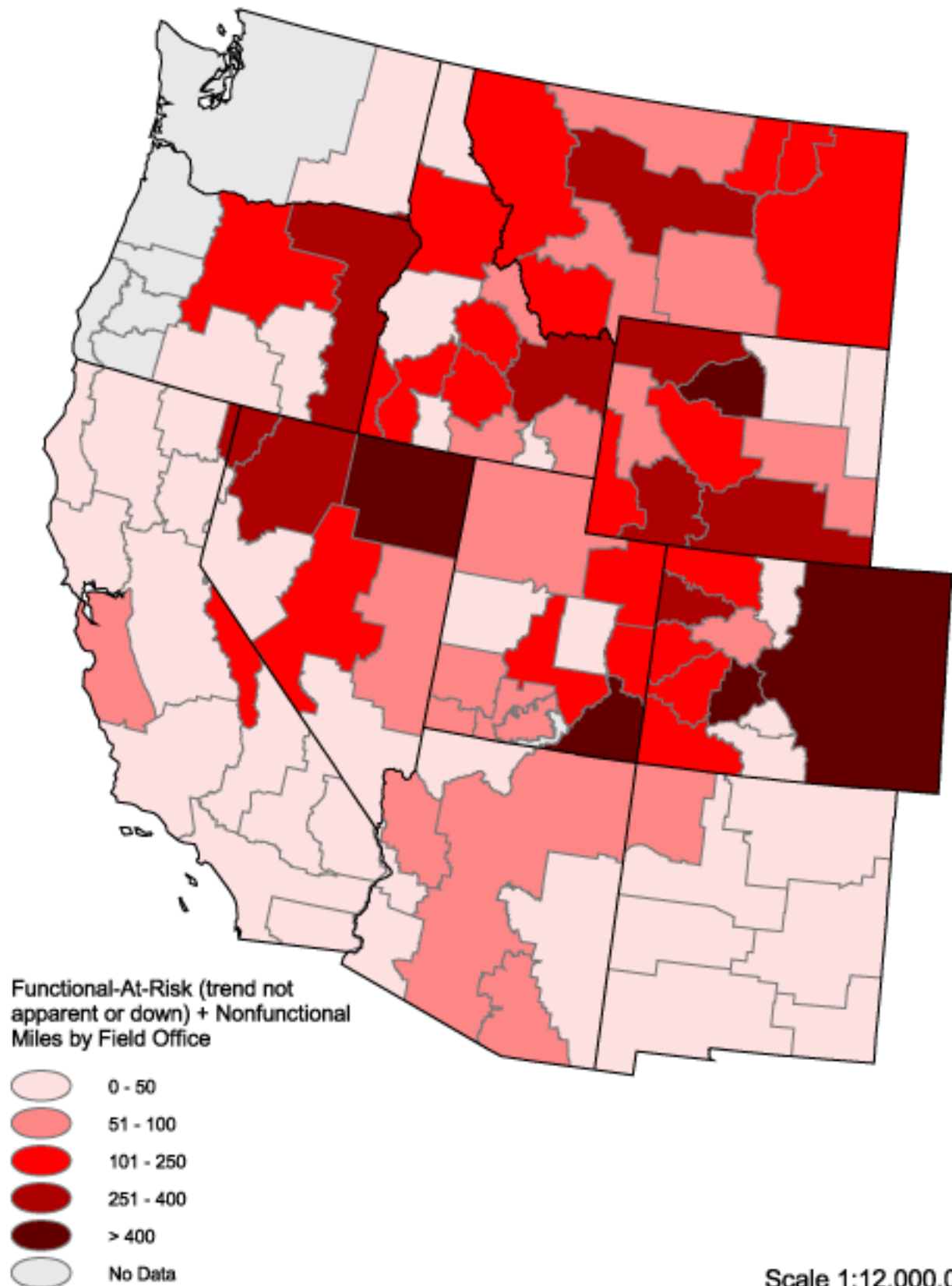
Comparable PFC ratings for western Oregon are not available. However, riparian areas in these field offices are already subject to intensive management under the aquatic conservation strategy in the Northwest Forest Plan. State summations by field office for California and Montana are significantly lower than the state totals reported in Public Land Statistics. In Montana, this is likely due to a data entry backlog in the centralized system maintained at the University of Montana. These data should be updated by the end of September 2000. The discrepancy in California has not yet been resolved.

**Limitations:** (see Riparian Condition - “Acceptable”)

**Source:** (see Riparian Condition - “Acceptable”)

**Comments:** (see Riparian Condition - “Acceptable”)

## Riparian Condition - "Unacceptable"



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